



IOLANI PALACE

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Dwight Takamine, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2009

SB 786 SD1

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Takamine, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Bill 786 SD1.

Since 2006, Iolani Palace has suffered three takeover attempts, with two of those involving the Palace itself. These acts of protest, all involving different Hawaiian sovereignty groups, have placed the Palace, the grounds, and the artifacts at extreme risk for damage, in addition to the issue of safety for our employees, volunteers, and visitors.

The Friends of Iolani Palace welcomes the Legislature's proposal to identify criminal trespass and vandalism of historic properties as more serious than those taking place at other properties. We believe that historic sites designated on the Hawaii Register belong to all the people of Hawaii, and that the intentional takeover and subsequent unauthorized entry into such places is an affront to our indigenous culture.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in strong support of this measure.